

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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Well, it's certainly very good to see all these fine match reports coming in to Dribbling Balls. Remember, it's the match reports that have made Dribbling Balls what it is today... pathetic. Yes indeed, Dribbling Balls is to literature what MacDonalds is to Cordon Bleu cooking. Want some examples...

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 29/4)

Albatross 43 d. Uni 40

A typical Uni loss? We lead the whole game and lose in the last minute! How could one describe such a performance? Disgraceful, embarrassing (at this point I reach for my Roget's Thesaurus for suitable synonyms), shameful, unbecoming, unworthy, humiliating, shocking pitiful, dishonourable (say, this book is OK : note well other correspondents!). Ten points up with 7 minutes to go (this is where the Ed. adds - I've heard it all before) (hey smartarse, I'll do all the funny stuff in brackets, OK? - Ed.) (I've heard it all before - Ed.) and poor shot selection and slack D costs the game. Anyway, why continue in this nihilistic, defeatist tone? Apart from the last few minutes this would probably rank as a promising start to the Winter season. The team has been reorganized and is a mixture of new faces and old soldiers. Mark and Hugh put in promising first-up games and Clarkie showed the occasional flash of brilliance.

Wacker 10, Hugh, Mark 8, Clarkie 6, Terry 6, Phil 2.

V.W.B.C. DIV 2 (Wed. 1/5)

Uni 37 d. Werribee 23

Smarting after last week's shock loss, the team bounced back and comprehensively wiped out an undermanned Werribee side. Spike and Carmel both moved well to the basket in offence during the first half and contributed 12 of our 17 first half points. Our defence was quite good in its man to man phase and better in its press phase and we held them to 8 for the half. In the second half we never looked like dropping back as Spike continued on her way in offence, helped by some excellent screening from Bernie who was playing a top game at both ends of the court. Bridget worked extremely hard and made some nice baskets to go with her very effective defence. Despite some foul trouble Jean also played a good game, but I still reckon (against advice from my life insurer) it wasn't her shot from 15 feet on the baseline under pressure with 20 seconds left. We let them score a couple of cheap baskets in the last minute but all in all it was a good team effort, and we retain second place on the ladder.

Spike 15, Bridget 9, Bernie 6, Carmel 5, Jean 2.

V.W.B.C. DIV 4 (Wed. 1/5)

Uni 50 d. St. Kilda 23

We started well and were doing fine when their coach called a man to man. We hit the panic button and they got to within four points of us, the half time score being 24-20. In the second half we stopped throwing the ball away, and generally settled down. We made the most of a few of the umpire's non-decisions (he must have swallowed his whistle for a while) and they passed it in to us once, resulting in a nice easy layup for Tracy. Top game from Lissa, both on the boards and shooting.

Lissa 13, Kylie, Rose 8, Tracy 7.

V.W.B.C. DIV 6 (Wed. 1/5)

Uni 44 d. SY's not really very many at all

We started with our now patented, unpassable full court press and blitzed SY's to lead 30-4 at half time after a great team effort led by Debbie, Jill and Kaylene, who apparently did miss one shot in the first half - but it was

during warmups. We spent the other half practising our offensive pattern after being told not to run fast breaks or any sort of press. We even got it right and scored from it quite a few times with posts Jacqui, Kaylene and Leanne doing well. Quite a comfortable win really, but ... Once upon a time there was a girl called Leanne Lucas and she had a coach called Teddy, and he coached some other girls including Sally and Sue. One day in a game Leanne rebounded in defence and then planted a nice little "turn-around jumper". Two points for the opposition who inbounded the ball and allowed it to be stolen by Sue who tore down to the other end of the court with Sally to score a basket. Try as they might to score, the ball went out of bounds. At the ensuing time out coach Teddy somewhat sarcastically berated Sally and Sue - "Why don't you try scoring for your own team once and a while," he taunted them. It was quickly pointed out by many, including the hordes of spectator, that both brave and sincere Sally and Sue were in the right, and coach Teddy was a proper, little, inattentive ~~idiot~~ twit. As for the other team, they didn't notice, as for the refs, well, a ref is a ref is a ref, as for the scorers (whose initials are Pauline Murphy) she scored Leanne's basket to us, and as for the moral to this little anecdote - "A coach is never really wrong until Jean Prior says so."

Kaylene 12, Debbie, Jacqui 8, Jill, Leanne 6, Lissa, Lyn 2.

How can you tell when the Real Men have lost a game? Easy, there are no match reports for it. How can you tell when the Real Men have won a game? Also easy, there are about eight match reports for it. And here they come...

V.B.H.B.A. A GRADE MEN (Thu. 2/5)

Uni 32 d. ??? 29

After a big win last week (a walkover) and the huge spectator crowd present, including No Damns' mum (or was it just an older women?), Mounas' new look team were ready to roll. A slow first half (pronounced "low scoring") was highlighted by FF24's jump shot from the top of the key, (not your shot Bowlesy - Ed.) and ... not much else really. Half time, 19 to 7, we were down. "Go to a man to man, men" Coach Mounas had that determined look, we were to get out there and play hard. All very well, but we were still 12 points down. Our first score for the half was just shit hot. A pass from new recruit Dragan in the back court to No Damns explosively breaking up the centre of the court with the ring in his sights. A bounce, or two (I can't remember) and up .. and up .. and up .. and a SLAM DUNK. SENSATIONAL. Those warm up dunks weren't just for show. This was the turning point folks, Uni was on the March, the crowd had doubled and were sounding frenzied, like twenty blind lesbians in a tuna factory (or so the saying goes). The tough "deny the pass and block out" man to man was maintained and some excellent outside shots from the wings saw us hit the lead with about 12 minutes to go (could we last the distance?). While the big men were getting crucified (and fouled) under the boards, the ref decided to let the game take its ugly course. One spectator was heard to exclaim "That's my son out there! Where's my handbag?!!" One and a half minutes to go, down to four players and only 3 points up, the opposition went into a "hold 'em when they haven't got the ball and hold 'em when they have got the ball" defence. Although it was almost a "chooks without heads, men without hats" offence (hey, this guy writes well, I think - Ed.) we kept possession long enough to run out winners, yes WINNERS in a game that included a SLAM DUNK from Mrs. No Damns' favourite son of the night.

V.B.H.B.A. A GRADE MEN (Thu. 2/5)

Uni 32 d. ??? 29

It doesn't matter if you win or lose until you lose. We've done plenty of the latter, finishing last season with 3 wins, 16 losses and 1 draw. It's been said we've got a lot of potential, but potential is worth 2/3 of F All unless you're prepared to do the hard work. We won tonight through this hard work and we'll only win games by working hard at our game both on and off the court. If the Demons, who have got nothing going for them, can climb up the ladder, then

surely the Real Men can do it.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 5/5)

Uni 82 d. Jetz (2) 38

Well, the scoreline tells the story. The opposition were pretty hopeless. If it wasn't for the large number of shots from inside the key missed in the first half we would have scored about 150 in this game. The first half was dominated by Rick (who was very light on the frap but heavy on the doodle) and J.C. scoring inside as we went to 29-12 up, while the second half was an absolute procession of long court passes leading to multiple layups for Chris and also Pendles who moved very well in offence. Special mention to Les who was the only one who was interested in playing defence and did it so well. A convincing start to the new season. If we had played as badly in this game as we played in our semi final last season we would have only won this game about twenty, I reckon.

J.C. 19, Chris 15, Rick 13, Pendles 11, Haggis 10.

M.B.A. C GRADE (Mon. 6/5)

Uni 41 d. Flag Inns 27

With player numbers increased by 25% (from 4 players last week to 5 players this week) team confidence swelled and we knew we would knock over this team of "Super Sallys". After a slow start, towards the end of the first half we began fast breaking to lead by 8 points at half time. From here we never looked back, and won a fairly lack-lustre game by 14 points thanks to the rebounding efforts of Fergus and Steve and a steady game from Chris.

Fergus 21, Chris 16.

V.W.B.C. DIV 2 (Wed. 8/5)

Uni 28 d. Ballarat 21

This was our first ever game against Ballarat in Div 2, and it was hardly what you'd call memorable. Highlight of the first half was Jean offering to resign her \$40000 a year job after the coach needlessly berated members of the team for not being at the game in time for warm up. She later withdrew her offer and just punched his lights out instead. But back to the game, for want of something better to discuss. First half saw us attempt the usual trick, start in man to man, switch to zone and demoralize the opposition with our press. Well, two out of three ain't bad. Our defence was actually quite effective, and but for two cheap baskets would have been excellent. Our offence was not feeling itself really, as we missed a number of "easy" baskets inside. We also managed to get quite a few good scoring opportunities off the new sideline play in offence, which was good to see. We missed most of them though, which was not good to see. A lead of 15-11 at the change was less than we should have had. Our second half defence was very good, holding them to 10 points for the half. Special mention (never could spell "crawl job") to Jean for some strong rebounding when we needed it. If our offence wasn't feeling itself in the first half then I think it was close to death in the second half. Much of our shot selection was poor, even from Spike who contributed our only three field goals for the half, so it was a good thing we did the Jimmy Krakour and penetrated well to be fouled by the little assassins from the 'Rat and shoot several fouls shots (7 out of 12 for the half, 8 out of 16 for the game). Good control from the guards under some physical pressure helped us to a hard earned victory, but we will need to improve for the tougher games coming up.

Spike 16, Bridget 5, Anne, Jean, Carmel 2.

V.W.B.C. DIV 4 (Wed. 8/5)

Uni 22 d. Nunawading 14

The scores may indicate this game to have been a lack-lustre exhibition of basketball, with not much in it for the spectator (Haggis) to enjoy. Wrong. It was a tense and exciting game (at least for the coach anyway) as Uni positioned fourth on the ladder accounted for the undefeated division leaders.

Playing a full court press for most of the first half, with Mandy playing an outstanding third row, we led 14-8 at the half. For the game a 1-3-1 zone was employed, which smothered their outside game, and with Lissa, Mandy and Kylie rebounding well we maintained our lead. Our man to man offence is improving each week and was well controlled by our guards Tracy and Woody, but still needs plenty of work. It was an excellent win accomplished by a very strong defensive effort.

Woody, Tracy 6.

V.W.B.C. DIV 6 (Wed. 8/5)

Uni 47 d. Russo's 20

Playing against the team with the division's leading scorer (about 20 p.p.g.) we were all very impressed down here I can tell you, but not the slightest bit worried. We started with a full court press and quickly asserted our authority due to a sensational display in the third row by Lyn and the second row by Kaylene and least of all the coach who, in between breathing, was filling in the scoresheet, running the scoreboard, yelling at his players and yelling at the ref. The turnovers caused by the above mentioned players were quickly converted into baskets by Jill and Debbie. In our set offence Lyn and Kaylene were cleaning up again with the net effect being us 24 to them 8 at the long break. The second half was more of the same, Jill and Debbie running hot, Sue and Sal controlling the ball, and Jack, Lyn and Kaylene being fairly well dominant inside. Unfortunately we ran out of legs near the end of the game and they scored some very easy uncontested type baskets, but besides this it was a delightful performance from a side which is now beginning to combine into a team. What happened to opposition hot shot I hear you all asking - 8 points then she was stricken by a mystery bout of concussion. Seriously though folks, I was only joking about the 8 points.

Debbie 15, Jill 14, Kaylene 9, Lyn 5, Jack, Sal 2.

IT WAS RIGGED : At last the Bush Dance and the Intervarsity Raffle are over, and both were a stunning success (especially the raffle). Congratulations to all involved in both ventures, especially Mattman for the Bush Dance and Henry, Bowlesy and Bernie for the raffle.

On a more serious note though, severe castigation of one T. Smith appears to be in order after the big upset in the final of the pyramid racing championships at the Bush Dance. After we went to all the trouble of interrupting the sock sliding competition and the Tag Team Virginia Reel, you'd think he could do better than this. The Rest Of The World pyramid was clearly victorious after half the basketball club second row (i.e. the aforementioned Smith) thought a Le Mans start meant staying over the other side of the floor and having a chat and a beer with his mates instead of getting on top of the third row as expected. Consequently, the bottom row started off with three people running behind with set squares and calculators trying to work out how to make a nine man pyramid. Disqualification was but a moment away. This all landed a big betting plunge, and stewards are now holding an inquiry as to why Simon Beasley was seen paying off a certain short bearded part time band manager later that evening. Is Smith related to Russ Hinze? Are the Hi I'm Gary T shirts made out of Fine Cotton? Watch for further details as they break here in Dribbling Balls. Remember, if it happened... Dribbling Balls isn't interested. Ah yeah, Dribbling Balls... it's not lies, it's just bullshit.

THE MAGIC FARAWAY TREE : What land is at the top of the Faraway Tree on June 8, 9 and 10? That's easy, it's Port Land. Yes, Fisher's favourite will arrive yet again this year. It looks like five teams of men and three teams of women will ascend the Faraway Tree and partake of a weekend in Port Land. If you are one of these souls, don't forget to pay your \$7 to Henry, Woody or

Jacqui before you go, i.e. NOW. This \$7 covers your stadium entry for the whole weekend. Also remember, dunking is not allowed during warm up or the game. Also also remember, you have to carry your basketball shoes into the stadium, not wear them. This is because it has been known to rain a little bit on odd occasions at Portland and the stadium tends to fill up with mud. So there!

THE MAGIC FARAWAY TREE (PART 2) : As mentioned in our last very exciting episode, lots of people are going to PORTland. Now, it follows that these folk, or a fair percentage thereof, will need some PORT. Well, isn't it just your lucky day. MUBC Marketing, in conjunction with Mattman Enterprises and Gary Van Egotrip are wonderfully proud to present the exclusive MUBC PORT BOTTLING. Yes, starting 12 noon on the 26 May at Jacqui Lee's place, we'll be bottling another batch of everybody's favourite answer to impending thermo-nuclear holocaust, MUBC PORT. There'll be plenty for sale, lots to taste and heaps to bottle. So come along, bring your friends, and have a whale of a play. Woody says bring a picnic lunch. Jacqui says bring a mop and a bucket.

SOCIAL DISEASES : Are not acceptable if you are planning on going on the almost famous Melbourne University Basketball Club CAR TRIAL on May 19. Not only that, it's not even on that date any more. Apparently the social secretaries went out last week to try out the course and haven't been seen since. Yes, DO NOT meet at the Beaurepaire Centre early Sunday morning and then you won't be despatched to part or parts unknown on this magical mystery tour. Nobody will give me any more details than that, so you'll have to find out the rest for yourself. Another event of gargantuan proportions is the club's PROGRESSIVE DINNER, to be held on Saturday night, June 22. Keep this night free, it will be big. More details next edition.

Watch for the next edition of Dribbling Balls where we blow the lid off the sex scandal which is bound to occur at Portland, with 5 mens teams and 3 womens teams attending. Should be bigger than Hi I'm Gary (including the lights!)